CLAIMS

Having thus described the aforementioned invention, we claim:

1. A method for collecting, organizing, presenting and utilizing data relative to a disaster or terrorist action site for use by an emergency response team in responding at the site, said method comprising the steps of:

a) collecting data relative to a facility including at least one of a photograph, a spherical image, a site plan, a floor plan, chemical storage data, and fire equipment location information;

b) storing said data in memory on a computer, said data being organized in a both a hierarchy and across spatial diagrams;

c) inputting data relative to an emergency situation located at an emergency site;

d) selecting data within said hierarchy and said spatial diagrams necessary to assess said emergency situation;

e) preparing a response to the emergency situation;

f) responding to the emergency situation in a manner consistent with said step of preparing a response; and

g) updating said data as the emergency situation continues.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of collecting data through said step of updating data is performed using a computer, and wherein a responder assets management system is resident within said memory.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein said responder assets management system includes at least one of an information module, a

1 logistics module, an operations module, and a planning module.

1   4.   The method of Claim 3 wherein said information module
2 includes a link to at least one of a local weather information source, a
3 national weather information source, and said data stored in said memory,
4 wherein said step of selecting data is performed by choosing a selected said
5 link.

1   5.   The method of Claim 4 wherein said link to said data accesses
2 an information tree and wherein said step of selecting data is performed by
3 scrolling through said information tree to find selected of said data.

1   6.   The method of Claim 3 wherein said logistics module assists in
2 managing equipment resources during an emergency response, said
3 logistics module managing equipment information including at least one of
4 title, location, date and time of use, and date and time of return, wherein
5 said step of preparing a response includes the step of determining
6 availability of equipment for use in responding.

1   7.   The method of Claim 3 wherein said operations module includes
2 a plurality of interfaces including at least one of a situational awareness
3 interface, an operations manager interface, a messenger interface and a
4 status board interface, said step of responding to the emergency situation
5 including the step of accessing at least one of said plurality of interfaces.

1   8.   The method of Claim 7 wherein said situational awareness
2 interface is provided for a virtual walk-through, pre-incident planning,
3 contingency planning, training visualization, and operational support using
4 said data stored in said memory, said step of accessing at least one of said

1 plurality of interfaces including the step of reviewing said data using said

2 situational awareness interface.

1 9. The method of Claim 8 wherein said step of accessing at least

2 one of said plurality of interfaces further includes the step of annotating

3 said data with information specific to the emergency situation including at

4 least one of a description of extent of damage, and location of equipment

5 and personnel.

1 10. The method of Claim 9 wherein said step of accessing at least

2 one of said plurality of interfaces further includes the step of transmitting

3 said data for review at a remote location.

1 11. The method of Claim 8 wherein said data includes at least one

2 of a floor plan, a site plan and a map, wherein at least one icon representing

3 localized information is indicated on said data to indicate location of a

4 particular item, said step of reviewing said data further including the step of

5 selecting said at least one icon to reveal said localized information.

1 12. The method of Claim 8 wherein said situational awareness

2 interface includes an incident layer in which information specific to a

3 particular emergency situation is stored, wherein said step of reviewing said

4 data further includes the step of reviewing said information specific to the

5 particular emergency situation.

1 13. The method of Claim 7 wherein said operations manager

2 interface is provided for remotely monitoring progress during the emergency

3 situation, said step of responding to the emergency situation including the

4 step of creating a record of said response to the emergency situation

1   including at least the time the emergency situation occurred, and the nature

2   of the emergency situation.

1   14.   The method of Claim 7 wherein said messenger interface is

2   provided to support informational messages and data update messages.

1   15.   The method of Claim 7 wherein said status board interface is

2   provided for automatically updating said operations module, said step of

3   responding to the emergency situation including the step of monitoring said

4   data during said response to the emergency situation.

1   16.   A method for providing automated response relative to

2   significant unplanned emergency situation, said method comprising the

3   steps of:

4   a)   collecting data relative to an emergency situation ;

5   b)   identifying at least one type of an emergency situation;

6   c)   inputting data relative to the known characteristics of said

7   emergency situation;

8   d)   generating a response to said emergency situation: and

9   e)   tracking progress of said response to said emergency situation.

1   17.   The method of claim 16 wherein said steps of collecting data

2   through said step of tracking the progress of said response is performed

3   using a computer and wherein a Responder Assets Management System is

4   resident within said memory.

1   18.   The method of claim 17 wherein said Responder Assets

2   Management System includes at least one of an information module, a

3   logistics module, an operations module, and a planning module.

1   19.   The method of claim 18 wherein said operations module

2   includes a response options generator interface.

1   20.   The method of Claim 19 wherein said response options

2   generator interface is provided for automated response, said response

3   options generator including at least one automated checklist of at least one

4   action to be completed for preparing a response to the emergency situation,

5   wherein said step of responding to the emergency situation includes the

6   step of following said at least one checklist throughout the duration of said

       response to the emergency situation.

1   21.   The method of claim 20 wherein said step of responding to the

2   emergency further includes the step of capturing by said checklist a date

3   and time of completion of said at least one action.

1   22.   The method of claim 19 wherein said step of responding to the

2   emergency further includes the step of generating a response using said

3   resource generator interface, said response comprising a list of at least one

4   option to be considered as an appropriate response to said emergency

5   situation.

1   23.   The method of claim 22 wherein said at least one option is

2   selectively includable and excludable.

1   24.   The method of claim 23 wherein said step of responding to the

2   emergency further includes the step of tracking a selected response to

3   include date and time of initiation of each response and time to complete.

1   25.   The method of Claim 23 wherein said selected response to the

2   emergency situation further includes the step of generating a time-phased

3   list of required resources using said response options generator, said

4   resources in said time-phased list including at least one of personnel and

5   supplies required at any interval during said response.